



## Good Neighbor News

Winter 2014

A City of Carlsbad Police Department Neighborhood Watch Publication



### Keep the "happy" in the holidays by securing holiday gifts

*Follow through with a plan to keep cell phones and tablets secure.*

Security tips:

- **Keep tabs on your devices.**

Don't leave your smartphone or tablet unattended...anywhere. If you have an Android-based device, be sure to download a security app that can locate your device if you lose it. For Apple users, get an account with an online locating service, such as "Find my iPhone." (It works for iPads too.)

- **Set a strong password.**

Make sure you have a hard-to-crack login password. These passwords allow you to set them up so that after a certain number of incorrect login attempts, the device gets locked or the data is wiped. When adding or changing any password, make it a long word with numbers or punctuation marks so it's difficult to guess. On an Android tablet, go to "Settings," then "Security," then "Change Screen Lock," then "Password." On the iPad, go to "Settings," then "General Setting," then "Passcode Lock." Select "Turn Passcode On" and follow the instructions.

- **Avoid fake apps.**

Use caution with "free" apps. Malicious apps are often disguised as legitimate and without security software, it's nearly impossible to tell the difference. Malware-infested applications for mobile devices are showing up in alarming numbers. A malicious app can steal your smartphone or tablet data and send out spam. It can also monitor everything you do and capture all your usernames and passwords. To prevent this, download a mobile security app that scans, detects and blocks mobile threats found in downloaded apps before they can infect your mobile device.

- **Watch public Wi-Fi.**

A public Wi-Fi hotspot or any unknown or untrusted wireless network is a security risk. Since your traffic is

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public, there is the possibility that it is being captured. So if you're browsing the Web and go to a page that doesn't use SSL (Secure Socket Layer) to encrypt your communication, everything you see and anything you send can be captured and seen by anybody else on the network. It's safest not to send any sensitive data over an untrusted wireless network. Paying to access a Wi-Fi network doesn't mean it's secure.



### Getting fit in the New Year

*Walking or jogging safety.*

New Year's resolutions almost always contain resolutions to get-fit. Luckily in Carlsbad fitness can take us outside...year-round. Here are some safety tips to consider if going out for a walk or jog.

- Carry a cell phone, ID and your key.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you should be back.
- Leave all unnecessary personal property at home (not in your car).
- Walk with a friend or group. There is safety in numbers.
- Walk during the day or in well-lit areas.
- Use commonly traveled routes.
- Walk with purpose. Know where you are going.
- Pay attention to whom and what is around you.
- If you feel uncomfortable, cross the street, enter a store or go to other well-populated areas.
- Scream for help if necessary.
- Wear brightly colored clothing.
- Vary your route.
- Use caution if a stranger tries to engage you in conversation.

## ASTREA 411

### *Why is the helicopter above my neighborhood?*

If you see or hear a helicopter in the sky over Carlsbad, it might be the San Diego County Sheriff's helicopter, ASTREA. Like many agencies in the county, the City of Carlsbad Police Department participates in mutual aid. That means agencies use their resources to benefit each other. ASTREA is one of those resources.

The police department contracts with the Sheriff's Department to use ASTREA to provide "eyes in the sky." And ASTREA could be overhead for numerous reasons.

Recently, a resident found a young man rummaging through her open garage. When young man saw the resident, he left on foot. In an effort to talk to the man, the police department used all available resources, including ASTREA.

On another occasion the police department used ASTREA to follow the trail of a car crash into an overgrown brushy

area. ASTREA might also be used to find a missing person or to assist with a variety of search efforts.

If you hear or see the helicopter, please rest assured. If you cannot clearly hear the announcements coming from the helicopter, your neighborhood is probably not the target neighborhood.



In an emergency, if the police department needs you to have important information, the police department will make every effort to get that information to you. Reverse 911, Ready San Diego and the old fashioned door-to-door knocking could all be used. Facebook and Twitter could also be a source of "emergency" information. Also, for 24/7 police information please call, 760-931-2197.

The police department's goal is to make every reasonable effort to resolve every call for police services from tracking a potential crime suspect to bringing a missing person home.

<http://www.sdsheriff.net/astrea/index.html>

## Hot and dry weather

### *Throwing cigarettes from cars.*

Please note: It is a violation of the California Vehicle Code to "throw **lighted or nonlighted** cigarettes, cigars, matches or any flaming, or glowing substance from a vehicle." Not only is the penalty a minimum of \$500 and eight hours of community service, the act could have catastrophic effects in this hot and very dry weather. You would be responsible for the resulting events. Please do not do it.

## Social Media: 2013 review!

### *Taking communication to new levels. Be part of the revolution!*

- The police department told 171 stories on Facebook since May of 2013.
- The stories reached **137,683** people!
- The highest number of people reached in one day was 18,000.
- 700 people have "liked" the Facebook page ... and its growing.
- A variety of information has been posted including
  - media releases
  - crime prevention
  - public interest
  - wanted subjects
  - crime trends
  - traffic alerts
- You do not need to be a Facebook user to see the information at [www.facebook.com/carlsbadpolicedepartment](http://www.facebook.com/carlsbadpolicedepartment).
- The police department Tweeted 220 times including two Tweet-a-longs during special events.
- You can find us on twitter @CarlsbadPolice

Check it out. "Like" and "follow" if you feel inclined. The department will be watching to see what topics interest you.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**Police emergency** call 911  
**Police non-emergency** call 760-931-2197  
[www.carlsbadca.gov/crime-prevention](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/crime-prevention)